

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 21, the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In the event that recorder 1 breaks down and its owner wishes to obtain another one, it will be necessary to retrieve internal key 204 from his old unit in order to program it into one-time programmable ROM 203 of his new unit, so that he will be able to play back copies that he had recorded using his old unit. A service facility programs bit OTP10 of the old recorder 1 to a value of 1, which conditions OR gate 606 to enable AND gates 602A, permitting output of the key on lines 720 so that it can be programmed into one-time programmable ROM 203 of the new recorder 1. However, under the present invention the ON or 1 state of OTP10 irrevocably disables the normal operation of the recorder 1. The actual manner of doing this is a design choice; in the example given in Fig. 5, the disabling is accomplished by disabling the recording and playback paths of CPD 200. As shown in Fig. 2, encrypter 218 and decrypter 228 are integral to the recording and playback paths respectively. As shown in Fig. 5, bit OTP10 is required to be in the OFF or 0 state to enable encrypter 218 and decrypter 228; ~~programming.~~ If the bit OTP10 is changed to the 1 state in order retrieve the key, ~~thus disables~~ the operation of the recorder 1 is thus disabled. Since programming bit OTP10 to the 1 state is an irrevocable operation, operation of recorder 1 is permanently disabled. Many alternative ways may be contemplated in which the 1 state of bit OTP10 may be deployed to disable the recorder 1. --